

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 01639 291819Z

61

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /072 W
----- 030998

R 291700Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6045

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1639

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, UK

SUBJ: BOTSWANA'S CURRENT VIEWS ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR NOV 29, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IAN SMITH WAS BEING MORE FORTHCOMING ON THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND THAT A SOLUTION MAY BE FOUND SOON. MOGWE RECALLED STATEMENT ON NOV 11 IN WHICH SMITH INDICATED TIME HAD COME TO FIND SOLUTION TO PROBLEM. HE SAID HIS REPRESENTED A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BY SMITH. HE THOUGHT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE HAVING SOME INFLUENCE.

2. MOGWE FELT THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FROM RHODESIA WOULD ENCOURAGE SMITH TO BE EVEN MORE FORTHCOMING. IN HIS VIEW THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARGUMENT THAT THEIR SECURITY FORCES WERE IN RHODESIA TO PREVENT INFILTRATORS FROM ENTERING SOUTH AFRICA WAS NONSENSE. HE SAID THE ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 01639 291819Z

EFFECTIVE WEAPON BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS POSSESS IS IN THE ECON-

OMIC FILED.

3. MOGWE SAID THAT IF AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM, THE GOB WOULD BE PREPARED TO JOIN OTHER OAU STATES IN URGING THE TERRORISTS TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS.

4. MOGWE ALSO SAW THE LACK OF A CONSENSUS AMONG ANC, ZAPU AND ZANU AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE IN FINDING A SOLUTION IN RHODESIA. HE SAID BOTSWANA WAS PREPARED TO WORK WITH THEM IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM DEVELOP A UNITED POSITION.

5. MOGWE SEEMED UNUSUALLY OPTIMISTIC. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A TRANSITIONAL RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT INCLUDING BLACK LEADERS SHOULD BE FORMED AS THE NEXT STEP. SUBSEQUENTLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD.

6. MOGWE NOTED THAT CALLAHAN WAS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BOTSWANA IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE HAS DEPARTED FOR LONDON FOR ADDITIONAL TALKS ON RHODESIA AND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN MATTERS.

7. COMMENT: MOGWE VOLUNTEERED THAT EASUM HAD SHOWN UNUSUAL GRASP OF SUBTLETIES OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS DURING HIS VISIT TO BOTSWANA AND IN HIS PRESS STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS DURING HIS TRIPS AROUND SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE LEXINGTON SPEECH WOULD BE HELPFUL DEALING WITH SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.
BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC STABILITY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GABORO01639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740347-0588
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974114/aaaaacry.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA'S CURRENT VIEWS ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, BC, RH, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005